[Translation]

Travelling by Unauthorised Persons in Sleeper Coachee

5310. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has issued directives in regard to stopping unauthorised persons travelling without sleeper class tickets in sleeper coaches of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that these persons do not travel in sleeper coaches; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those employees of the Railways who intentionally allow the unauthorised persons to travel in the sleeper coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) While deciding a petition, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission had ordered that the Railways should see that in respect of sleeper compartments which are non-vestibuled there will be one TTE/Conductor in each compartment so as to ensure that no persons other than passengers holding 2nd class sleeper ticket valid for travel are permitted to enter to remain inside the compartment.

(b) Instructions were issued to the railways to ensure availability of TTEs in sleeper class coaches as per the prescribed yardstick. After November 94, Instant Action Groups have been introduced on 30 pairs of trains to prevent the entry of unauthorised passengers in the reserved coaches. Train Superintendents are also being provided in important long distance Mail/Express trains. Besides, the following steps have been taken to prevent unauthorised entry:—

(i) Short distance passengers including MST holders have been debarred from travelling in reserved coaches of long distance Mail/Express trains.

(ii) Surprise checks are conducted with the help of GRP/RPF and action is taken against the unauthorised passengers who are detrained and fined under the provisions of the Railway Act.

(iii) The vacancies of ticket checking staff are being filled up to improve manning of reserved coaches.

(iv) Passengers holding 2nd class tickets found travelling in sleeper class are treated travelling in higher class and are subjected to penalties as prescribed.

(c) Disciplinary action is taken against the staff in proven cases of connivance.

Revenue Earned by the Union Government in Maharashtra

5311. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total revenue earned by the Union Government in the field of tourism in Maharashtra;

(b) whether any discriminatory attitude has been adopted by the Union Government regarding the development of tourist places in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTAY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The tax revenue earned by the Central Government by way of expenditure tax from tourists in the State of Maharashtra during the current financial year is Rs. 109. 45 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Survey for Introduction of Circular Train between Kanhan and Hingna Defence

5312. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to introduce Circular train between Kanhan and Hingna Defence in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The proposal to introduce train services between Kanhan and Hingna has been examined but not found feasible due to technical constraints.

Doordarshan Kendras, Dibrugarh

5313. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for lowering the height of Dibrugarh TV tower to the present 75 metre from the original plan of 150 metre;

(b) the reasons for reducing this kendra to an Agricultural based station from the original plan as commercial station;

(c) the present area of operation and coverage and future plan of action for strengthening and modernising this kendra;

(d) whether unwanted foreign TV signals from